

VZCZCXRO3434
RR RUEHCI
DE RUEHKA #1241/01 0681050
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 091050Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5926
INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 8943
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 8424
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1009
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7341
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 7656
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 2443
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DHAKA 001241

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INL/C/CP (Diane Kohn)

SENSITIVE, SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PGOV](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: IAGGA REPORT SUBMISSION FOR BANGLADESH

REF: STATE 30961

Sensitive but unclassified

11. (U) Post is pleased to provide its submission for the 2004-2005 International Anticorruption and Good Governance Act as requested reftel.

12. (SBU) Begin text:

Bangladesh

Government Efforts: The Government of Bangladesh (BDG) established an independent Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in November 2004 to replace the Bureau of Anti-Corruption. The ACC has been ineffective since its formation, and has not finalized its internal organizational structure. Under World Bank pressure, the BDG gave preliminary approval to a draft procurement law. The law remains pending. At the urging of multilateral and bilateral donors, the BDG has cancelled procurements due to corruption in the power and telecommunications sectors and projects to support social development. Two ministers resigned following corruption scandals that received significant press attention.

Law Enforcement and Legal Systems: The USG has provided technical assistance and training since 2004 to the BDG to support amendment of its anti-money laundering law and establishment of internal institutions for investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, including corruption. The office of the Resident Legal Advisor was established in 2005 to support these efforts. Several USG agencies have provided training to professionalize law enforcement officers in conducting criminal investigations and in investigating police criminal misconduct.

Transparent Governance: USAID worked closely with other donors and the Prime Minister's Office to design a long-term, government-wide anti-corruption strategy. The resulting draft framework, once adopted, would create a road map for the government's overall approach to combat corruption. Eleven USAID implementing organizations have undertaken a pilot program to promote citizen participation in determining the allocation and use of resources in their respective sectors. USAID developed a toolkit for community coordination of activities, knowledge sharing and peoples' empowerment based on this experience. Open,

public budget hearings organized by USAID and aimed at increasing the financial transparency of the lowest level of elected government, were conducted in 65 local government units during 2005, enabling citizens to scrutinize their budgets, prioritize development projects and receive reports of public expenditures. On average, this transparency program has led to a 15% increase in local revenue collection.

Civil Society: The Embassy actively promotes a free and independent press in Bangladesh. Senior USG officials have raised concerns about violence against journalists and the self-censorship that this violence causes, both publicly and in private discussion with government officials. USAID programs provide training on investigative journalism to enhance the capacity of Bangladeshi journalists to conduct investigative reporting based on international standards and principles. Every year, the Embassy sends journalists to the United States on the International Visitors program and on reporting tours. The Embassy also sponsors several training programs for journalists each year. NGO's, in particular Transparency International, actively promote public awareness of corruption issues in Bangladesh, including through public seminars and education campaigns. USAID supports local governance initiatives to foster active public participation in oversight of government institutions and decision making, including local governance and budgeting and fiscal expenditure monitoring.

End text

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